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Hepatitis A in a Food Handler Who Served Persons From Multiple States

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently been notified that an employee of a single Jamba Juice store in San Jose, California was recently diagnosed with hepatitis A. The food service worker also assisted with the preparation of fresh fruit smoothies for distribution at the booth of an exhibitor (JumpSport) at the 43rd Annual USA Gymnastics (USAG) National Congress and Trade Show held in conjunction with the 2007 Gymnastics National Championships, in San Jose, California. Attendees at the trade show and gymnastics competition were from a number of states and have since returned home.

Because it is likely the employee followed good hand hygiene and food safety practices, the risk of exposure is small. However, persons exposed in the last 14 days can reduce their risk. Persons who may have been exposed include:

- Persons who ate or drank at the 1140 Lincoln Avenue San Jose, CA Jamba Juice on August 1-3, 6-9, 11, 13 and 15-16.
- Persons who drank fruit smoothies distributed from the JumpSport booth at the USAG trade show on August 16 and 17th.

People who have had a hepatitis A vaccine or have had the illness in the past, are protected from hepatitis A infection. CDC recommends that persons who are not protected and are **within 14 days of exposure** contact their medical provider or their state or local health department to receive a dose of single antigen hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin (IG).

- Healthy persons between the ages of 12 months and 40 years can receive single antigen hepatitis A vaccine or IG.
- For persons over the age of 40 years, IG is preferred. Vaccine can be used if IG cannot be obtained.
- IG should be used for children under the age of 12 months, immune compromised persons, persons who have been diagnosed with chronic liver disease, and persons for whom vaccine is contraindicated.

In persons exposed more than 14 days ago, vaccine or IG treatment will not prevent the illness. Those persons should watch for symptoms of hepatitis A and practice good hygiene, including frequent hand washing with soap and water.

Hepatitis A is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus. Symptoms usually occur abruptly and include fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes), and diarrhea. Symptoms usually last less than two months; but some people may be ill for as long as six months. The average time from exposure to symptoms is 28 days, but can range from 15– 50 days. Good personal hygiene, including frequent hand washing with soap and water is very important in preventing the spread of hepatitis A. If you experience symptoms, please contact your health care provider.

People seeking medical care related to possible exposure can contact Jamba Juice to learn about their reimbursement policy for related medical expenses and obtain a reimbursement form by calling 1-877-217-4780. More information about hepatitis A is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/> or by calling the CDC information line at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES